

ST LAWRENCE

JANUARY 21, 2018



Sunday Reflection

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Follow me and
I will make you
fishers of men.”

-MARK 1:17

Jesus' call to "Follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

What is RCIA?

Thinking of joining the Roman Catholic Church? The Catholic RCIA stages are a good model of basic faith development.

Where do you begin?

Well, you just begin from where you are now! Many adults entering the Catholic Church, or those just thinking about it, follow a process known as the RCIA — the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The RCIA process has several distinct stages.

RCIA Stage 1:

Just Looking

In the inquiry stage, you're just finding out about Jesus, Christianity, and the Catholic Church.

Your main task here is to explore and develop your faith enough so you can make an informed initial decision about entering the Catholic Church. The final decision won't come for a long time, when you actually enter the Church at Easter and receive the sacraments of initiation.

RCIA Stage 2:

Learning about the Faith

In the catechumenate, your faith has begun to develop. Now you need to learn and grow more. You focus on catechesis in this stage: learning about the faith, how to live as a Christian, and developing your interior life. Your job now is to come into closer contact with the Living God and learn more about the Catholic Faith.

RCIA Stage 3:

Getting ready for rebirth!

This period of purification and enlightenment is the final stage before receiving the Easter sacraments of initiation into the Church: baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. (Those already baptized with a valid baptism in another Christian church aren't baptized again).

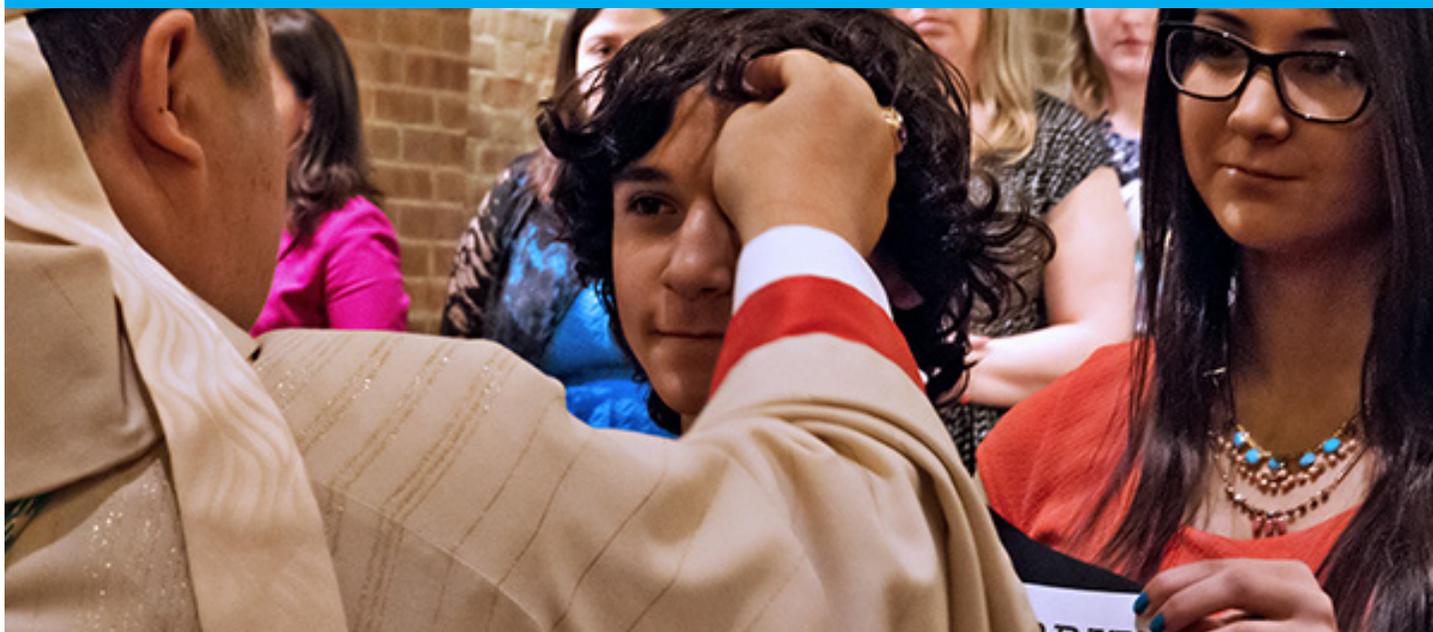
This stage of intense reflection calls you to deeper conversion in preparation for your renewal at Easter. This is what the season of Lent is for, but it has a special intensity for you this year as you're entering the Church and receiving the sacraments of initiation.

RCIA Stage 4:

Reflecting on the mysteries of the Mass

This stage of mystagogy during Easter is for continued reflection on the sacraments you have received at Easter, especially the Eucharist. Specific catechesis on the Mass, the Sacraments, and especially the Eucharist are the focus of this stage. The Mass and the Eucharist are the source and summit of the Christian life in the Catholic Church, and this period is designed to help you understand, appreciate, and live more deeply this center of Catholicism.

If you have any questions regarding this Sacrament, please contact **Nick Leeper** at officemanager@stlweehawken.com



January 22, 2018: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

For bishops and priests:
Through their ministry,
may those who are afraid
be strengthened with the peace of God;
We pray to the Lord:

For our nation:
May God unite us in peace
and respect for each other
and all human life;
We pray to the Lord:

For public servants:
May God grant them the humility, wisdom,
and courage to defend all human life;
We pray to the Lord:

**May the Lord grant to us
understanding hearts,
that we may treasure his gift of life;**
We pray to the Lord:

**May the merciful and gracious Spirit of God
help us protect and care for
each person's life;**
We pray to the Lord:

**May God grant us the wisdom and courage
to lovingly protect his gift of human life
at every stage, in sickness and in health;**
We pray to the Lord:

**For those who feel alone in their grief
following an abortion:
May they deeply experience
the Lord's mercy and healing;**
We pray to the Lord:

**For those who have participated in
abortion and long for reconciliation with God:
May they find healing and peace through
the Sacrament of Reconciliation;**
We pray to the Lord:

**For those suffering the loss of a child:
May Christ comfort them
with his everlasting love;
We pray to the Lord:**

**For parents who receive
a difficult prenatal diagnosis:
May they be strengthened by the
assurance of God's loving plan
for their child's life;**
We pray to the Lord:

**For people with disabilities:
May they be treated with the loving care
and respect due to each person;**
We pray to the Lord:

**For those facing unexpected pregnancies:
May God provide for their every need
in welcoming their child;**
We pray to the Lord:

**For those whose hearts ache
for a child of their own:
May they experience the Lord's presence
and be filled with his peace;**
We pray to the Lord:

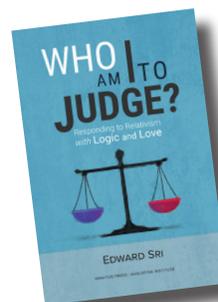
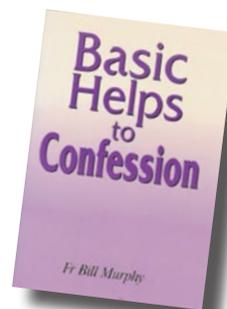
**May friends and families of women
who are unexpectedly pregnant
provide loving, life-affirming support
for both mother and child;**
We pray to the Lord:

**For medical professionals:
May respect for each person's life
characterize their every action;**
We pray to the Lord:

SUGGESTED READING

BASIC HELPS TO CONFESSION

by Fr Bill Murphy



WHO AM I TO JUDGE RESPONDING TO RELATIVISM WITH LOGIC AND LOVE

by Edward Sri

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES Can you predict the events of 2018 with accuracy? Who would dare to make such a claim? Here we are at the beginning of a new year and no one knows what the future will bring...unprecedented joy or deep sorrow? Many families and individuals have the resources to cope with whatever comes along. Catholic Charities reaches out to those who have very limited resources. Help us to continue our mission by contributing to our clothing bin. **Any questions or comments, please contact Maria F. Biancheri at 973-596-3985 or mbiancheri@ccannj.org.**

MORNING OF HEALING: FOR PERINATAL LOSS

The Offices of Family & Respect Life are offering a Morning of Healing to support families who have experienced the loss of a child due to miscarriage, stillbirth or neo-natal death. We invite all parents, siblings, grandparents and others who are affected by the loss of a baby, either recently or long ago. Agenda includes: Presentations on topics specific to perinatal loss, small group discussions, a memorial service, resources and fellowship. Lunch and refreshments provided. When: Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 8:30am to 12:30pm at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 60 Byrd Avenue, Bloomfield, NJ Free of charge and babysitting is provided. **For more information call 973-497-4327. Must register online at: <http://Events.rcan.org/PerinatalLoss/>**

FAITH, FAMILY, AND FORGIVENESS SERIES The latest program in the 70x7: Faith, Family, and Forgiveness Series sponsored by Immaculate Conception Seminary and Relevant Radio will take place Saturday, January 27, from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul Inside the Walls, Madison, NJ. This program, Part IV in the Series, is entitled New Beginnings: New Life- How the Sisters of Life Accompany Others on Paths of Forgiveness, Healing and Hope. Presenting at this program will be members of the community of the Sisters of Life. **To register please contact: Theresa Miller at theresa.miller@shu.edu or (973) 761-9575**



This Week's Mass Intentions

Tuesday, January 23

9:30 am † Filomena Ricca

Wednesday, January 24

9:30 am † Intention of Priest

Thursday, January 25

9:30 am † Intention of Priest

Sunday, January 28

8:00 am † Intention of Priest

10:30 pm † Intention of Priest

12:00 pm † John Bado, Jr.

Visit us online
at
stlweehawken.com

.....



St Lawrence RC Church